

Released: May 11, 2018

Monthly Labour Force Activity - April 2018-

Overview

The employment rate in the Northwest Territories (NWT) was 63.7% in April, virtually unchanged from 63.9% in March. The number of employed persons stood at 20,700, while the labour force saw a slight drop of 200 persons from the previous month. Among the employed, 86% worked full-time while 14% worked in part-time positions.

Table 1: Labour Force Statistics - Northwest Territories, April 2018

	Apr-18	Mar-18	Apr-17	Change from 12 months ago	
				Number	%
Population 15 & over	32,500	32,400	32,400	100	0.3
Labour force	22,500	22,700	22,800	(300)	(1.3)
Employment	20,700	20,700	21,600	(900)	(4.2)
Full-time	17,800	17,600	19,000	(1,200)	(6.3)
Part-time	2,900	3,000	2,600	300	11.5
Unemployment	1,800	2,000	1,200	600	50.0
Not in labour force	10,000	9,700	9,600	400	4.2
Participation rate (%)	69.2	70.1	70.4		
Unemployment rate (%)	8.0	8.8	5.3		
Employment rate (%)	63.7	63.9	66.7		

Year-over-year, employment in the NWT decreased by 4.2% or 900 persons, with all of the job losses coming from full-time employment. Similarly, the employment rate in April 2018 was 3.0 percentage points lower than the 66.7% recorded in April 2017.

Over the past 12 months, there were 600 more unemployed persons in the NWT. As a result, the unemployment rate dropped 2.7 percentage points between April 2017 and April 2018.

National highlights

Nationally, at 60.8%, Canada's employment rate was almost unchanged from the previous month.

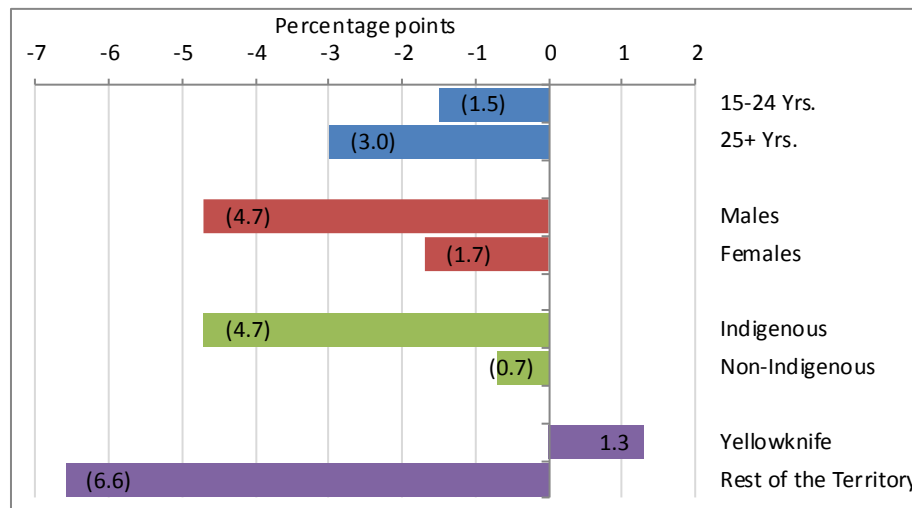
Among the provinces and territories, the Northwest Territories (63.7%) had the third highest employment rate after Yukon (71.2%) and Alberta (66.7%). Meanwhile, Newfoundland & Labrador (48.2%), Nunavut (52.2%) and New Brunswick (54.7%) had the lowest employment rates.

For Canada overall, the unemployment rate was 6.2% in April 2018, unchanged from the previous month.

Employment rates by selected demographic characteristics

Compared to April 2017, employment rates declined for all key demographic characteristics with the exception of Yellowknife. The highest drop occurred among persons living outside of Yellowknife. Subsequently, due to the geographic distribution of the NWT labour force, with higher proportions of Non-Indigenous persons living in Yellowknife, the employment rate decline among Indigenous persons was more than that of Non-Indigenous persons.

Figure 1: Year-over-year change in Employment Rates - NWT, April 2018



Employment by employment type, class of worker, and industry

At the industrial level, year-over-year employment levels dropped for both the goods-producing industry, and the services-producing industry (Table 2). March and April 2018 employment in the goods-producing industry were the lowest since 2001.

Small gains in part-time employment in the 12 months to April 2018 were overshadowed by losses in full-time employment. Over the same period, private sector employment and self-employment accounted for all job losses, while public sector employment was unchanged.

Table 2: Monthly and Yearly Change in Employment by Selected Characteristics

	Apr-18	Mar-18	Apr-17	Change (persons) from	
				Mar-18	Apr-17
Total Employment	20,700	20,700	21,600	0	(900)
Full-time	17,800	17,600	19,000	200	(1,200)
Part-time	2,900	3,000	2,600	(100)	300
Employees	19,300	19,200	19,900	100	(600)
Public	9,800	9,800	9,800	0	0
Private	9,500	9,400	10,100	100	(600)
Self-employment	1,500	1,500	1,700	0	(200)
Goods-producing sector	2,800	2,700	3,400	100	(600)
Services-producing sector	17,900	18,000	18,200	(100)	(300)

Historical labour force activity

The following table presents historical labour force activity in the Northwest Territories.

Table 3: Labour Force Activity -Northwest Territories

	Population 15 & Over	Labour Force	Employed	Unem- ployed	Not in the Labour Force	Partic- ipation Rate	Unemp- loyment Rate	Employ- ment Rate
Apr-18	32,500	22,500	20,700	1,800	10,000	69.2	8.0	63.7
Mar-18	32,400	22,700	20,700	2,000	9,700	70.1	8.8	63.9
Feb-18	32,400	22,800	20,900	1,900	9,600	70.4	8.3	64.5
Jan-18	32,400	22,900	20,900	2,000	9,500	70.7	8.7	64.5
Dec-17	32,400	22,600	21,000	1,600	9,900	69.8	7.1	64.8
Nov-17	32,400	22,800	21,300	1,500	9,600	70.4	6.6	65.7
Oct-17	32,400	23,400	21,800	1,500	9,000	72.2	6.4	67.3
Sep-17	32,300	23,300	21,700	1,600	9,000	72.1	6.9	67.2
Aug-17	32,300	23,400	22,000	1,400	9,000	72.4	6.0	68.1
Jul-17	32,400	23,000	21,500	1,500	9,300	71.0	6.5	66.4
Jun-17	32,400	22,700	21,300	1,400	9,700	70.1	6.2	65.7
May-17	32,400	22,400	21,100	1,400	9,900	69.1	6.3	65.1
Previous Years:								
Apr-17	32,400	22,800	21,600	1,200	9,600	70.4	5.3	66.7
Apr-16	32,400	24,100	22,500	1,600	8,200	74.4	6.6	69.4
Apr-15	32,100	23,200	21,600	1,600	8,800	72.3	6.9	67.3
Apr-14	32,400	24,200	22,200	2,100	8,200	74.7	8.7	68.5
Apr-13	32,600	24,200	22,200	2,000	8,400	74.2	8.3	68.1
Apr-12	32,400	24,700	22,500	2,200	7,600	76.2	8.9	69.4
Apr-11	32,200	24,600	22,800	1,800	7,600	76.4	7.3	70.8
Apr-10	31,900	22,000	20,400	1,600	9,900	69.0	7.3	63.9
Apr-09	31,700	22,700	21,600	1,100	9,100	71.6	4.8	68.1
Apr-08	31,800	23,800	22,300	1,400	8,000	74.8	5.9	70.1

Information on the territorial labour market is a result of the extension of Statistics Canada's national Labour Force Survey (LFS) to the Northwest Territories. Data presented for the Northwest Territories is based on three-month moving averages, with survey counts rounded to the nearest 100 persons.

For additional information on the monthly release of labour force survey results for the Northwest Territories, visit the NWT Bureau of Statistics website at <http://www.statsnwt.ca/> or call (867) 767-9169.

Next Release: June 8, 2018